



Executive Director

Camden City Independent Living Center, Inc.

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O'Dessia Bowser
Executive Bd Pres.

May 21, 2008

First, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Education for your time and consideration for allowing me to introduce the "Promoting Self Advocacy" Transition Program. With your help, the New Jersey Association of Centers for Independent Living has been able to work with more the 6,000 students, by providing links to resources that will help them successfully transition from high school into adult life. In addition Centers for Independent Living have developed over 2,800 independent living plans with students that will assist them with goals and objectives connected to their successful transition.

To highlight another aspect of our program, the Centers for Independent Living continue to be the sole organization that serves people across all disabilities which makes up 19.6% of the population in New Jersey. The journey to Independence is dedicated to Promoting Self-Advocacy by making students with disabilities, their parents, the schools, and the community aware of the service and resources of the center. The program will help students achieve their goals by providing them with services to improve their Independent Living skills.

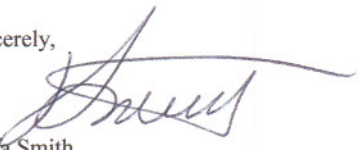
The Camden City Independent Living Center, INC. is located at 2600 Mt. Ephraim Ave. Suite 413 Camden, NJ 08104. (CCILC) is a non-profit, grass-roots organization which is fully governed by a board of directors, of which fifty-one percent (51%) is disabled. CCILC exists to empower individuals with disabilities to take charge of their lives, to raise a family and participate fully in all educational, vocational, governmental and social independent lifestyles as possible for the city of Camden's disabled residents.

Our center is focused on the students in the City of Camden. Presently we provide services to 2 schools out of 13 schools located in Camden City. We would like to provide service to every school in Camden city. Our hope is to increase the awareness of the student's strengths and weakness and what helps them learn or perform better. Increase their ability to participate in educational planning, access available accommodations and retrieve and use available resources.

CCILC and the Centers for Independent Living look forward to building our relationship even further with Board of Education in 2008-2009 through enhanced collaboration, especially at the local level.

We are looking forward to your support and keeping the Transition Program alive. This program allows quality time to be invested with students with disabilities during their transition period. With thanks and gratitude CCILC.

Sincerely,


Veda Smith
Executive Director

Tara Arslanian
Transition Specialist



Shannon Zeilman
Support Staff

Kim Govak
Housing Coordinator

Working towards a brighter future for Camden City's Disability Community